



Florida Elder Law & Estate Planning E-Newsletter February 2017

 Forward to a Friend

Message from our Attorneys

Valentines Day. Presidents Day. But there is another day in February that is noteworthy for Sunshine State residents: It was on Feb. 22, 1819 that U.S. Secretary of State John Quincy Adams and Spanish Minister Do Luis de Onis signed the Florida Purchase Treaty, ceding to the U.S. the Spanish province we now call our home.

Wishing you and yours a happy and healthy February!

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Free workshops

Attend one of our free workshops and learn how to preserve your assets, protect your independence, and provide for your loved ones. Please share the schedule with your friends and neighbors, too!

[Workshop Schedule](#)

When just one of your children is successor trustee

There are compelling reasons you may name one child as trustee and not others. However, the seeming power imbalance can spark tension among siblings. To keep conflict at bay, make sure all concerned know their rights and obligations, well in advance.

[Read more](#)

V.A. Aid & Attendance look-back seems imminent, act now



Without giving a specific effective date, the Veterans Administration in 2015 announced it would include a "look-back" period when assessing eligibility for Improved Pension With Aid & Attendance. According to experts, implementation appears to be imminent.

[Read more](#)

Need a referral?

If you have a legal issue our firm does not handle, call us anyway. We are your law firm! We can often give you general advice, or provide

you with a name or names of legal professionals we consider to be competent and trustworthy. Contact us [here](#) or call 561-625-1100.

New CMS rules benefit nursing home residents

Getting a snack outside of regular mealtime is no big deal for most of us. But for a nursing home resident, it can be a virtual impossibility. Now, a sweeping overhaul of federal regulations will give residents greater autonomy and control over their care, as well as introduce a number of other reforms.

[Read more](#)

Welcome Attorney Mark Gotlieb

Attorney Mark Gotlieb, LL.M., has joined our firm. He assists clients with probate and trust administration, as well as wills, trusts and other estate planning issues. Read more about him [here](#).

Real ID deadline extended



The deadline has changed for obtaining "Real ID." If your birthday is before Dec. 1, 1964, you were originally required to obtain Real ID by December 2017. Now you have until October 1, 2020.

[Read more](#)

Pets are people, too (sort of)

Did you know that your pet, just like your human loved ones, may be named a beneficiary in your estate plan? Informal plans you make with even well-intentioned relatives, neighbors or friends to care for your pet can go awry if the caregiver passes away, becomes ill, or if the cost of caring for your pet becomes too great. A formal legal plan can ensure that your pet won't be abandoned in a shelter, as millions of dogs and cats are every year.

[Learn more](#)

"Can you hear me?" scam - all it takes is one word



One thing you can say about scam artists: they are resourceful. In the newest hustle, all you have to say is one word - "yes" - to be victimized.

[Read more](#)

Special Needs Fairness Act corrects longstanding problem

"Fairness" is the key word here. Thanks to recent legislation, mentally competent adults no longer have to rely on parents, grandparents or the courts to set up a Special Needs Trust.

[Learn more](#)

Thank you for your referrals!

We sincerely appreciate everyone you send to us and are so grateful for your confidence. Please encourage your referrals to mention you so that we can thank you personally!



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